

THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY
THE SENATE PRESS OFFICE

Memorial Day

May 2022

"This is a time for remembrance, gratitude and respect to honor the memories of the men and women who gave their lives in service to this great Nation." - Gov. Brian Kemp

Legislative Staff
Appreciation

Events Under The Gold
Dome

Updates On
Bill Signings

"Isn't It True?"

Monthly
Roll Call

Get To Know Your Senators



Volume 1, Issue 1 / May 2022

THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRER

A Monthly Newsletter by The Senate Press Office

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Steve Tippins
Editor-in-Chief

During the Legislative Session, it appears that all eyes are on Georgia and focused intently on the work being done under the Gold Dome. However, outside of session, much of the legislature's work often goes unnoticed. From constituent work, to study committees, to special guests visiting the Capitol, the work at the Georgia Senate never ceases.

To highlight this important work, the Senate Press Office has started up this monthly

newsletter - to ensure that the Senate's work both during session and the interim receives the recognition it deserves. We also want to take the opportunity to feature some behind the scenes views, such as an inside look at the lives of Senators outside of session and how they are able to balance their personal careers with their service to the legislature.

Our members come from such a diverse range of careers, backgrounds and geographic locations and we want to use this platform to put a human face on the Georgia Senate.

This month, we highlight a few of Governor Brian Kemp's Bill signing events and the legislation newly minted into law, get to know the district of a member of Senate Leadership a little better, recognize our legislative staff for all they do for our state, and bring attention to a few of the events hosted at the Capitol this month.

We hope that you find this newsletter to be interesting and informative. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any feedback.

Steve Tippins

ARTICLES

Update on Bill Signings

As the Governor's 40 Day Deadline Nears its end, which bills have been signed?

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Spotlighting little known aspects of Georgia's State Senate Districts

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Staff Appreciation Week

Each year, NCSL hosts "Legislative Staff Week." Take a look at how the Georgia Senate got involved

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Take a look at a few of the groups and events the Senate hosted this month

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UPDATE ON BILL SIGNINGS

Following the conclusion of a legislative session, the Governor has 40 days to either sign or veto legislation, or let it become law without his signature. Over this 40 day period, Governor Brian Kemp held ceremonies across the state to formally sign bills into law, often with the bill's sponsoring senator in attendance.

As Georgia's largest industry, bills related to promoting and protecting agriculture state-wide was a top priority this session. In Musella, Georgia, Gov. Kemp signed a series of bills to support this industry and ensure it remains a staple of Georgia's economy for generations to come. **Senate Bill 396**, sponsored by **Sen. Russ Goodman (R - Cogdell)**, represents legislation to rename the Georgia State Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP) to the Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank Program. This revamped nutrition program will benefit Georgia farmers by requiring participants to use their produce, as well as Georgians in need by offering healthier nutritional assistance options. In order to maintain Georgia's reputation as one of the top states for agriculture, Gov. Kemp signed **House Bill 1150** and **House Bill 1303**. These bills enhance protections for farmers against nuisance claims and make permanent a program to include agriculture education in the elementary school curriculum, respectively.

Columbus, home to Ft. Benning and the National Infantry Museum, served as a fitting location for the Governor to sign legislation of special relevance to our veterans. **House Bill 1064**, carried in the Senate by **Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)**, would reduce the financial burden placed on Georgia's members in the armed forces by authorizing a tax exemption of up to \$35,000 for qualified veterans. **House Bill 884**, also carried by Sen. Kirkpatrick in the Senate, creates an expedited process for spouses of military members to receive certain licensures. **Senate Bill 96**, sponsored by **Sen. Lester Jackson (D - Savannah)**, allows a military ID card to be used when seeking the service of a notary. **Senate Bill 87**, which bears the namesake of the late Sen. Jack Hill, allows taxpayers to donate their annual tax refund for scholarships that benefit veterans. As the best state in the nation in which to do business, these measures further promote Georgia to also be the number one state for veterans.

Three other bipartisan pieces of legislation championed by Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan were also signed in the Governor's ceremonial office. **SB 361**, sponsored by **Sen. Larry Walker (R - Perry)**, known as the LESS Crime Act, proposes a unique solution to aid our peace officers by providing a tax credit for individuals who donate to qualified law enforcement foundations. These donated funds can then be used for training, equipment costs and to establish a mental health co-responder program. Also signed was **HB 424**, the Fostering Success Act, sponsored in the Senate by **Sen. Bill Cowsert (R - Athens)**. This bill proposes a similar tax credit program to assist those who age out of Georgia's foster care system and ensure that even after they turn 18, they are still entitled to certain wraparound services to maximize their potential for future success. Finally, the Governor signed **SB 403**, sponsored by **Sen. Ben Watson (R - Savannah)**, which officially establishes a mental health co-responder program. With this bill signed into law, more individuals experiencing a time of distress will be met with compassion and resources for recovery versus potential jail time.

As the only constitutional duty of the General Assembly each year, there is arguably no single piece of legislation more critical than the budget. While the General Assembly passes two budgets each year, the "big" budget represents the entire funds allocated for the upcoming fiscal year. On May 12, Gov. Kemp formally signed **HB 911**, the General Budget for the 2023 Fiscal Year, carried in the Senate by **Sen. Blake Tillery (R - Vidalia)**. This budget represents roughly \$30 billion and invests in the areas of highest need including education, healthcare and public safety.

The formal deadline for the Governor to veto legislation fell on Friday, May 13, 2022. Any piece of legislation receiving a veto will have the opportunity to be overridden in the following legislative session. Any bill not explicitly vetoed, whether it was signed or not, will become law on the bills' effective date.

Full List of Signed Legislation: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation/signed-legislation/2022-signed-legislation>



Gov. Brian Kemp and Sen. John Albers (R - Roswell)



Sen. Sheikh Rahman (D - Lawrenceville)



Sen. Butch Miller (R - Gainesville) and Gov. Brian Kemp



Sen. Larry Walker (R - Perry)



ROLL CALL

Highlighting little known facts about Georgia's 56 State Senate Districts

Sen. Mike Dugan
Senate Majority Leader

SD 30

What is your favorite part of your district?

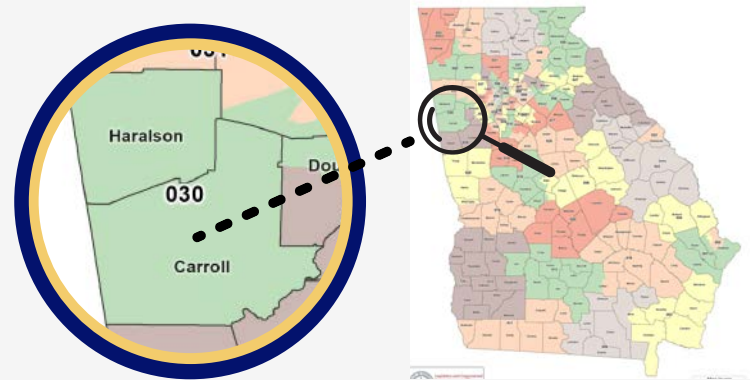
"I love the entirety of my district, but I am very partial to two cities: Bowdon and Carrollton. My early years were formed in Bowdon as I attended Bowdon schools. When I graduated from high school, I attended the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. Immediately after graduating from college, I joined the military and spent a sizable amount of time internationally. At the end of my military career, my family came back to live in Carrollton and have lived there since. My favorite spots in these two cities include the old Bowdon high school, the University of West Georgia, the Adamson Square, and my newly renovated historic home in downtown Carrollton."

What is something someone may not know about your district?

"The University of West Georgia is a major staple in SD 30. We are also known for Southwire - which is one of the largest wire manufacturers in the United States and world."

What legislative accomplishment are you most proud of that had a positive impact on your district?

"Over my time as State Senator, I have secured over \$200 million in state-funded projects for the West Georgia area. I'm particularly proud of our recent legislation expanding apprenticeship funding, the expansion of medical coverage for expecting mothers, and increased funding in HOPE scholarships."



Senate District 30 by the Numbers

Population: 191,475

Number of Counties: Portions of 4
(Carroll, Haralson, Douglas and Paulding)

Biggest City: Carrollton



Adamson Square

Photo Credit: Explore Georgia



Downtown Carrollton

Photo Credit: Carrolltonga.com



NCSL STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

Earlier this month, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) held their annual Staff Appreciation Week. Our office highlighted a different Senate office each day that week! This was a great way to recognize every member of Senate staff, both behind and in front of the scenes and show off what a fantastic job they do! NCSL interacted with each tweet and recognized our staff for their contributions.



Following Legislative Staff Week, we received a special thank you from NCSL for our contributions to recognizing our public servants in the Georgia State Senate!

Thank you for posting all week for legislative staff week! My name is Uyen, new to the Public Affairs team at NCSL and I truly appreciate your efforts in recognizing our public servants at the state legislatures!



EVENTS UNDER THE GOLD DOME

Each month, the Capitol hosts a wide range of events. Here are snapshots of a few events that took place this month

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Each year, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust holds a special Day of Remembrance at the state Capitol.

This year's ceremony was held in the House Chamber and featured Attorney General Chris Carr as the Keynote Speaker, with **Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)** and **Sen. Ed Harbison (D - Columbus)** also providing spoken remarks.

Seats were filled with members of the general public, legislators, state employees, and other invited guests. Speakers highlighted the importance of remembering the tragic loss of life and anti-semitism that plagued Europe during World War II, each telling the story of a holocaust survivor corresponding to photos of the survivor on a big screen for everyone to see. There were two photos shared beside each other of the survivors as a child and as an adult. Attendees of the ceremony could connect with their humanity through these images as speakers highlighted their stories.



Attorney General Chris Carr



Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)



Sen. Ed Harbison (D - Columbus)



Speakers gather in line

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the General Assembly adopted **Senate Resolution 584**, recognizing May 4, 2022, as Maternal Mental Health Day at the Capitol.

Sen. Sonya Halpern (D - Atlanta), a co-sponsor of SR 584, hosted a ceremony at the Capitol to recognize the critical importance of maternal mental health. During the ceremony, she and other women spoke on this issue and acknowledged struggles unique to women, many sharing personal stories about themselves or someone they know.

"One in five women have a mental health challenge during pregnancy or during the first year after birth, and most do not seek treatment due to perceived stigma," said Sen. Halpern. "This day is about tackling that."

Also mentioned during the ceremony was **Senate Bill 338**, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Halpern. This legislation went into effect this year to expand Medicaid to postpartum mothers from six months to a full year after the end of a pregnancy. Sen. Halpern spoke on her belief that this extended coverage will help improve maternal mental health when women need assurance that they can get this extended coverage, as every woman is different, every childbirth different and each situation unique.

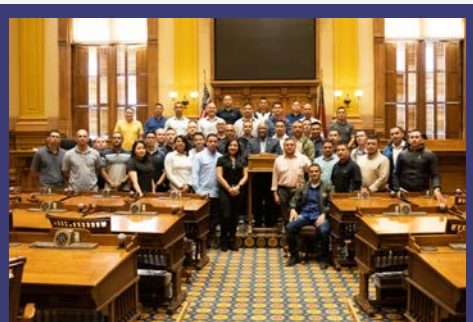


Sen. Sonya Halpern (D - Atlanta)



Sen. Sonya Halpern and group

International Military Students Take A Look Under The Gold Dome



Fort Benning Students in the Senate Chamber

Sen. Ed Harbison

(D - Columbus) invited a group of international military students from Fort Benning to learn more about the Georgia State Capitol and the legislative process. Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis.



EVENTS UNDER THE GOLD DOME

Each month, the Capitol hosts a wide range of events. Here are snapshots of a few events that took place this month

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



Governor Brian P. Kemp

On Wednesday, May 11, Governor Brian Kemp was joined by fellow legislators and men and women in uniform to honor the memories of those who have served this nation in the Armed Forces at the 2022 Memorial Day Ceremony held at the state Capitol. These brave individuals have made the utmost sacrifice to serve and protect our country. The United States thrives on granting liberty and justice for all and it is to these fearless service members that we owe our gratitude and respect.

"Each year, we gather like this to honor the memories of the men and women in uniform who gave their lives in service to this great nation. First Lady Marty Kemp and I are honored to be with you today as we honor those that have answered the ultimate call to duty, to defend Americans and our freedoms," said Gov. Kemp.

"When I think about the loss of young people with their whole lives ahead of them and the tragedy this represents for their family and friends, I think about the values of loyalty, duty and courage and the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make every day so that we are able to live our lives freely and safely," said Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R- Marietta).

Major General Thomas M. Carden Jr. of the Georgia Department of Defense, spoke on the importance of this day of remembrance. "Today we gather like this to honor our fallen soldiers. Men and women, American heroes alike, from all walks of life, gave all of their tomorrows for our today. We owe so much to those who have paid the price for freedom and more than anything we owe it to these individuals to make life count," said Gen. Carden, Jr.



Major General Thomas M. Carden Jr.



Sen. Ed Harbison (D - Columbus)



Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)



Governor Brian P. Kemp
with First Lady Marty Kemp



Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick serves as chair of the Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee and gave her remarks to our service members at the podium.



First Lady Marty Kemp and Major General Thomas M. Carden Jr.

EVENTS UNDER THE GOLD DOME

Each month, the Capitol hosts a wide range of events. Here are snapshots of a few events that took place this month

VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



On Monday, May 16, a number of Deputy Ambassadors representing numerous countries of the European Union were greeted at the Capitol by Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan.

As the second highest ranking diplomat at their respective embassies, these Ambassadors are tasked with creating and developing a deep understanding of what the key priorities are throughout the United States.

Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan thanked the Ambassadors for their hard work and dedication to the European Union while also giving the diplomats a brief rundown of some of the many accomplishments in areas of economic development, education and public safety that Georgia has achieved in recent years.

"We have done a number of great things here in Georgia. I'm very proud of the work the Senate Chamber has done to achieve goals across party lines so that our economic future can continue to grow. Specifically, Georgia has focused its efforts on two key areas of economic development such that Georgia is a great place to run your business and is an even better place to raise your family," said Lt. Governor Duncan.

"Just last year alone, the state of Georgia's trade with the EU climbed over 14% from 2020, representing an almost \$33 billion impact. Georgia's emergence as a key economic player on the global level results from our leaders promoting sound policy and facilitating productive conversations. I commend EU leaders for prioritizing today's visit and look forward to continuing our efforts to keep Georgia on the minds of international leaders."

Following Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan's greeting, the Deputy Ambassador to the Embassy of the European Union, Michael Curtis spoke briefly on the importance of the European Union and the role of the diplomats.

"Our main function is to serve and support the many nations within the European Union. It is a top priority of ours to travel around the United States where many European corporations are established. While business is often conducted with the United States as a whole, much of our relationships are also with individual states in the U.S. By building these relationships, we are able to promote more workforce, more jobs and more prosperity across the globe. We thank you for allowing us to be here today," said Mr. Curtis.

The purpose of this visit was for the Deputy Ambassadors to discuss topics of current and future collaboration with the State of Georgia and the European Union in hopes of advancing economic stability and significant investments for the state.



ISN'T IT TRUE?

Isn't it true that the dome of the Capitol was not always gold?

The Gold Dome was originally made of wood and tin and was painted to resemble a limestone finish.

In the late 1950's, a large hole was found in the top of the dome that caused leaks. This began the remodeling process to transition the Gold Dome to be what you see today, the gold dome.

In 1959, the citizens of Lumpkin County donated enough gold to the state to gild the dome and lantern of the Capitol. The gold was carried to Atlanta by wagon train and applied by Italian artisans. Only 85 ounces (or roughly 5 pounds) of gold covers the dome.

Since 1959, the gold has been stripped and refinished two times with the most recent restoration occurring in the 1990's. This was the first time gold from Dahlonega was not used with the gold actually coming from Italy.

Today, the gold is only replaced as needed.

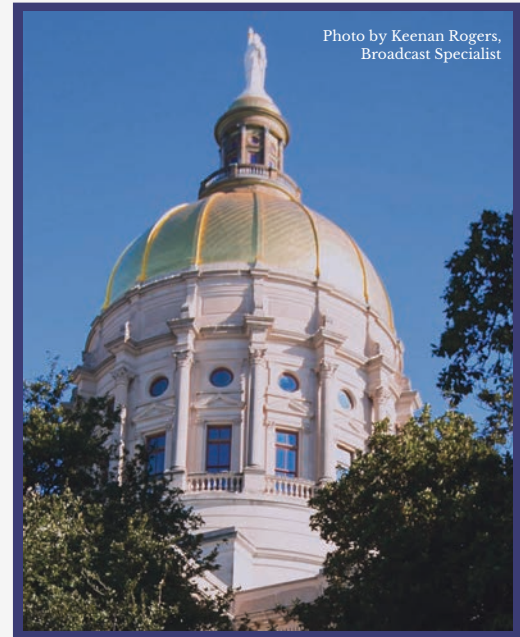


Photo by Keenan Rogers,
Broadcast Specialist

Georgia State Capitol Present Day



Georgia State Capitol Circa 1954



Georgia State Capitol Circa 1895

Photos Courtesy of the Digital Library of Georgia



Georgia State Capitol Circa 1920



ADJOURNMENT

Games & Puzzles: Word Scramble

Unscramble the word in each row to reveal the letters for the final word (circled letter in each row). Unscramble those letters to solve the puzzle!

Hint: If you get stuck, think of Georgia trivia, the Legislature, or look to the articles on earlier pages for answers!

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Featured Photo of the Month



View more photos from this month here:

<https://georgiasenatephoto.smugmug.com/>

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